

CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES | NON-FUNDED WORK

Peer Education & Equity Programs (PEEP)

Strategic Initiatives and Actions

Educational Excellence

1.6 Expand on-campus student employment opportunities that directly improve student success while simultaneously fostering leadership, critical thinking and communication skills (e.g., peer mentoring, in class tutoring).

Student Success

2.1 Increase academic support for students in the first year (e.g., proactive advising, embedded tutors, peer mentors, block scheduling).

Project Summary

Peer Education and Equity Programs (PEEP) is a collective of peer mentor programs within the Division of Academic Affairs. Our common purpose is peers helping peers to:

- navigate college transition,
- foster a sense of belonging,
- promote engagement in campus culture and high impact practices,
- empower peers to utilize student support resources,
- and facilitate student success strategies inside/outside the classroom experience.

Through our peer network, we are advancing peer-led interventions that facilitate equitable pathways to educational opportunity and that close equity gaps at CSUCI so students persist to timely graduation. All PEEPs share a common training experience. PEEPs develop skills needed to design and facilitate culturally responsive curricular and co-curricular student success interventions, increase co-curricular engagement at CSUCI, develop an understanding of historical inequities in access to educational opportunity for racial and ethnic minority groups, and realize their leadership potential to facilitate change in our communities at CSUCI and beyond.

Narrative:

PEEPs impact the lives of many CSUCI students and by doing so their lives are transformed. With over 60 hours of leadership and professional development training, we are empowering PEEPs to become navigators of their own success not just at CSUCI, but for their futures beyond CSUCI. PEEP offers three types of peer mentor/student leadership positions: Student Engagement Mentors, Embedded Peer Mentors (EPMs), and Outreach Mentors.

- Student Engagement Mentors: PEEP Mentors at CI work to advance the “Channel Your Success” campaign designed to empower CSUCI students to become navigators of their own success by increasing participation in co-curricular engagement opportunities and supporting the achievement of academic goals. Throughout the year, mentors organize culturally responsive programming that engages the whole family as part of the CSUCI community to build strong academic support structures for CSUCI students. STEM mentors work one-on-one with students and in weekly workshops to support students’ academic success in STEM courses as well as support students’ critical thinking skills and self-and-academic efficacy.
- Embedded Peer Mentors: PEEP Mentors in classes support the academic success of students enrolled in University Experience (UNIV) courses, as well as their success in navigating university life outside of the classroom. In this capacity, EPMs serve as: liaisons between their faculty partner and students in university experiences courses, peer advisors and peer mentors, academic coaches, co-curricular learning community leads, and student support services specialists. Each EPM supports a UNIV course section and co-facilitates student learning communities throughout the academic year.

- Outreach Mentors: PEEP Mentors in the community serve prospective CSUCI students in surrounding communities and work to infuse a university going culture within Ventura and Santa Barbara counties through college knowledge and STEM outreach to students and families. Mentors in the community motivate, mentor, and inform students about college pathways and provide college readiness support to students who are seeking a baccalaureate degree as well as showcase STEM majors and the benefits of a STEM career.

All PEEPs hold regular and/or drop-in peer mentor meetings with students, organize and engage students in co-curricular activities and events, and refer students to vital support services.

Baseline Data

PEEP 2018-2019

- 53 PEEP Mentors
 - Race/Ethnicity: 1 African American, 4 Asian/Pacific Islander, 38 Hispanic/Latino, 8 White, 2 Other (1 Middle Eastern and 1 Persian)
 - Gender: 37 Female and 16 Male
 - First generation: 43
 - Socioeconomic status (Pell Grant Eligible): 3

In preparation for the 2019-2020 academic year, PEEP will employ **74 students** (including 26 embedded peer mentors, 31 STEM and University Culture Outreach mentors, 11 STEM tutors, and 9 Peer-Led Team Learning leads) to advance student success & equity programming as peer mentors and leaders.

Goals

- Increase first year retention rates among students paired with PEEPs
- Sustain PEEP mentor positions through institutional commitments after HSI funds sunset (9/30/2020) in addition to increased fundraising for the Peer Mentor Ambassador

Project Status

Implementing phase

Key Leaders and Divisions

Lead Division	Division of Academic Affairs
Collaborating Division	N/A
Action Champions	Amanda Quintero, Associate Vice Provost, Student Success & Community Engagement; Michelle Hasendonckx, Assistant Director, Student Success & Community Engagement
Action Project Leads	Araceli Espinoza-Wade, Director, Project PROMESAS; Verónica Montoya, Transfer Student Success Activity Director; Monica Ocampo, University Culture Pathways Manager
Action Collaborators	University Experience Program (Marie Francois & Angie Stamos)

Additional Information

<https://www.csuci.edu/news/channel/fall-2018/peermentors.htm>